

About Harold Arlen

Born in 1905, Harold Arlen began playing with local bands, in movie houses, and with vaudeville and cabaret troupes as a teenager in his home town of Buffalo, NY. His early collaboration with Ted Koehler, beginning in 1930, led to writing such hits as “Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea” and “I’ve Got the World on a String” for the famed Cotton Club. In 1939, he won the Oscar for Best Original Song for “Over the Rainbow” from “The Wizard of Oz” and earned eight more Academy Award nominations including “The Man That Got Away” from “A Star is Born.” Arlen was enshrined in the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1971 and passed away in 1986 at age 81.

George Bugatti, Co-Founder (with Sam Arlen) of the Harold Arlen Foundation, said “If Arlen has just written “Over the Rainbow” he would be assured of his place in the Great American Songbook. Aside from being Judy Garland’s life-long signature, Rainbow was rated No. 1 by the Recording Industry Association of America and named one of the “Songs of the Century” by the National Endowment for the Arts.”